

YOUNG EXPLORER

DISCOVER
PETRIFIED FOREST
NATIONAL PARK'S
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM



The Junior Ranger Program is made possible through the support of the Petrified Forest Museum Association (PFMA). PFMA is a non-profit, private organization dedicated to supporting Petrified Forest National Park and the National Park Service.

YOU CAN BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Would you like to be a Petrified Forest National Park Jr. Ranger? To earn your badge complete three activities in your age group. When you are finished take this booklet to either the Rainbow Forest Museum or Painted Desert



Visitor Center. A park ranger will issue you a Junior Ranger badge. Remember — park hours change during the year. The hours are posted on signs in the park, or ask a ranger. Badges are issued until 1/2 hour before closing.

AGES 6 AND UNDER

Choose three of the following activities. Check off when done.

- ☐ Fossil Find: A Petrified Wood Checklistpage 3
- ☐ Wildlife Watchpage 5
- ☐ Shapes in Nature.....page 6
- ☐ Family Tiespage 12
- ☐ Yesterday & Todaypage 18

Ages 7-9

Choose three of the following activities. Check off when done.

- ☐ Who Am I?page 4
- ☐ What Doesn't Belong?.....page 7
- ☐ Every Picture tells a Storypage 8
- ☐ What's for Lunch?.....page 13

Illustrations on front cover, pages 6 and 7, and cottontail on page 5 by Zackery Zdinak.
Printed on recycled paper ♻️

AGES 10 AND UP

Choose three of the following activities. Check off when done.

- ☐ Park Puzzlerpage 9
- ☐ Triassic Word Searchpage 14
- ☐ The Petrified Wood Story:
What Happened First?page 15
- ☐ A Day in the Lifepage 17

Design by Sullivan Santamaria Design. Revised 4/01.

FOSSIL FIND

A Petrified Wood Checklist

(Ages 6 and Under)

Petrified wood is found in many colors, shapes and sizes. Walk on a trail (Giant Logs, Long Logs, or Crystal Forest), and look for the colors, shapes, and sizes listed below. Put a check mark next to each item you see.

Touch a petrified log. Can you find a section that is smooth? _____
Rough? _____ Sharp? _____
Is the log cold or warm? _____

Can you find a petrified log that is longer than you are? Yes _____ No _____
Walk next to this log and count your steps. How many steps do you count? _____ steps long.

Can you find a fat log?
Yes _____ No _____

Can you fit your arms around this log?
Yes _____ No _____

Can you find a piece of petrified wood the size of your hand? Yes _____ No _____

Can you find a tiny chip about the size of your fingernail? Yes _____ No _____

Be sure to leave all the petrified wood in place so others can find it, too.

Is there more than one color in the same log? What colors can you find?
Put a check next to each color you see.

___ Red	___ Brown	___ Black
___ Orange	___ Gray	___ White
___ Yellow	___ Purple	___ Pink



Color this picture to look like the petrified logs.

Who am I?

Ages 7-9

It's always fun to learn about wildlife. Using the clues below, see if you can solve the riddles and correctly identify the animals. You may be surprised by what you discover!

Hint! You might find us on Page 5!

Who Am I?

1. I live only in North America.
2. I am the largest animal living in Petrified Forest National Park.
3. I can run at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.
4. Many people think I'm a deer, but I am not related to deer at all.

I am the

.....

Who Am I?

1. I am a member of the canine (dog) family.
2. I hunt small animals for my food.
3. Native Americans tell many stories about my cleverness.
4. At night, you can often hear me howl.

I am the

.....

Who Am I?

1. I am a glossy black color.
2. I am related to the North American crow.
3. I am considered very smart!
4. I eat just about anything I can find.

I am the

.....

WILDLIFE WATCH

(Ages 6 and Under)

Many people think there is no wildlife in the park. This is not true! If you take a close look, you may be surprised by what you find. As you travel through the park, watch for the animals pictured below. All of them live in Petrified Forest National Park. Draw a circle around each animal you see. Remember to look very carefully, many of these animals are hard to see.



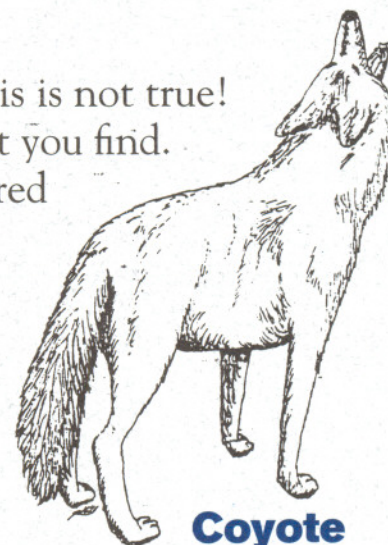
Prairie Dog



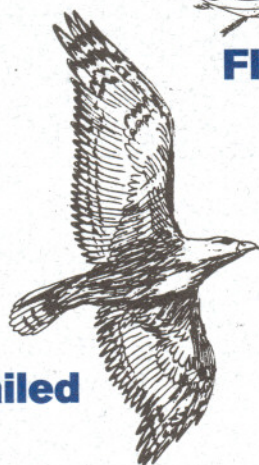
Fly



Snake



Coyote



**Red-Tailed
Hawk**



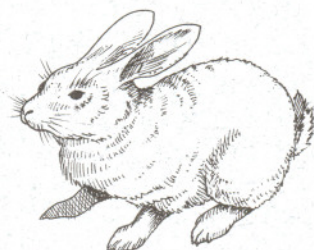
**Collared
Lizard**



Raven



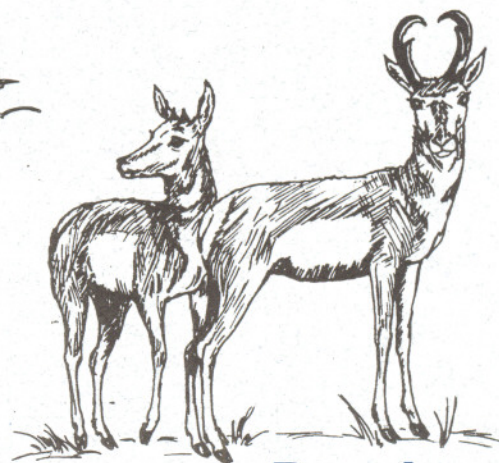
**White-Tailed
Antelope
Squirrel**



Cottontail



Ant



Pronghorn

SHAPES IN NATURE

(Ages 6 and Under)

Have you ever seen a circle in the sky or a square on a mountain? There are many different shapes in nature. Look at the drawing of the Painted Desert and identify the shapes you see. Now, as you travel through the park, stop at the overlooks and try to find these same shapes in nature. Draw a line around each shape you find.

If you have crayons or markers, color each shape. Do you see any circles in the drawing? Color all the circles you find yellow. Are there any squares in the drawing? Color all the squares red. Do you see any triangles in the drawing? What color would you like to color them?

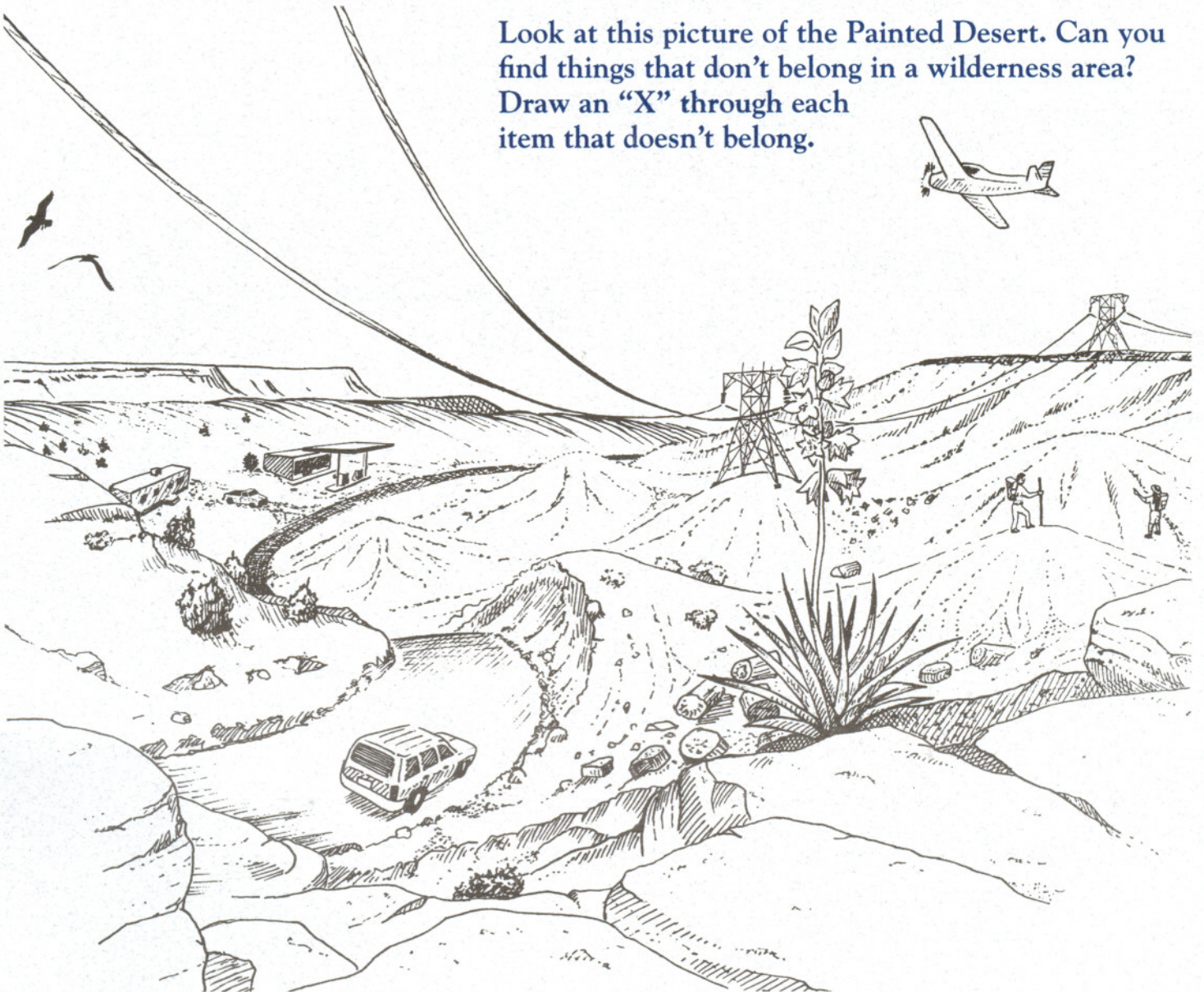


What Doesn't Belong?

Ages 7-9

Look out into the Painted Desert. Do you see anything that is human-made such as houses, roads, fences and machines? You shouldn't find anything that is human-made because it is a Wilderness Area. Only nature should change a wilderness area, with wind, rain and snow. People can visit wilderness areas, but they must walk or ride horses. Cars, trucks, and bicycles are not allowed!

Look at this picture of the Painted Desert. Can you find things that don't belong in a wilderness area? Draw an "X" through each item that doesn't belong.



Every Picture Tells a Story

Ages 7-9

There is more to this forest than the trees! Petrified Forest National Park is full of surprises. In addition to petrified wood, you can see the remains of Triassic age plant and animal fossils, ancient Indian villages, modern day wildlife, and beautiful scenery. Look at the picture blocks and write a story using one or more of the images, or write about something you saw during your visit. Draw a picture to illustrate your story.



Once upon a time . . .

Draw your picture here . . .

PARK PUZZLER

(Ages 10 and Up)

A puzzle to ponder! Can you use what you have learned about Petrified Forest National Park to complete this crossword puzzle?

Across (A)

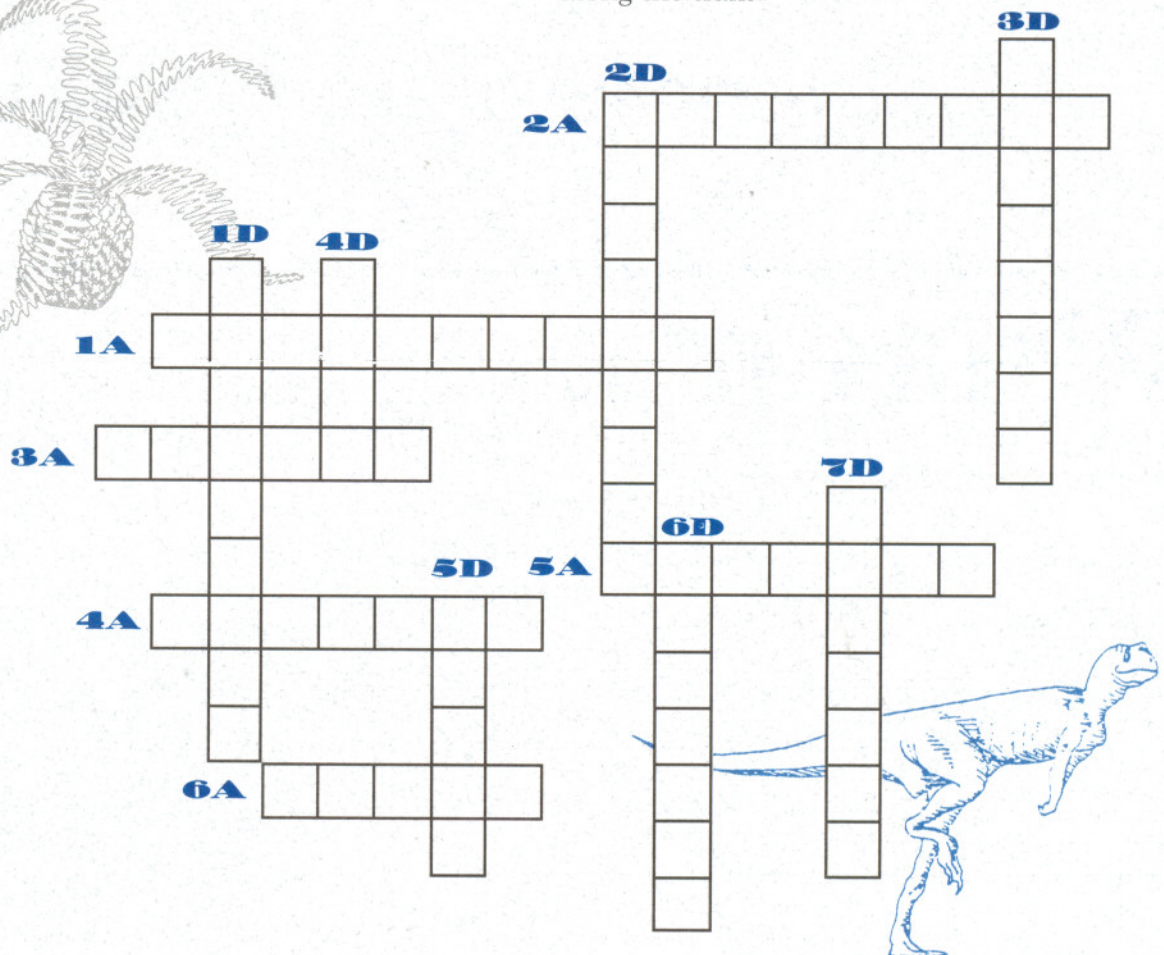
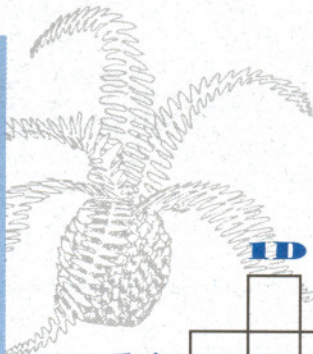
1. This rodent lives in "towns" and can be seen standing along park roads.
2. _____ Forest is a great place to learn about Triassic creatures and fossilized wood.
3. A _____ is available to answer your questions.
4. Long Logs Trail has the _____ logs.
5. Cottontails are this type of animal.
6. These delicate plants once lived along the waterways during the Triassic Period.

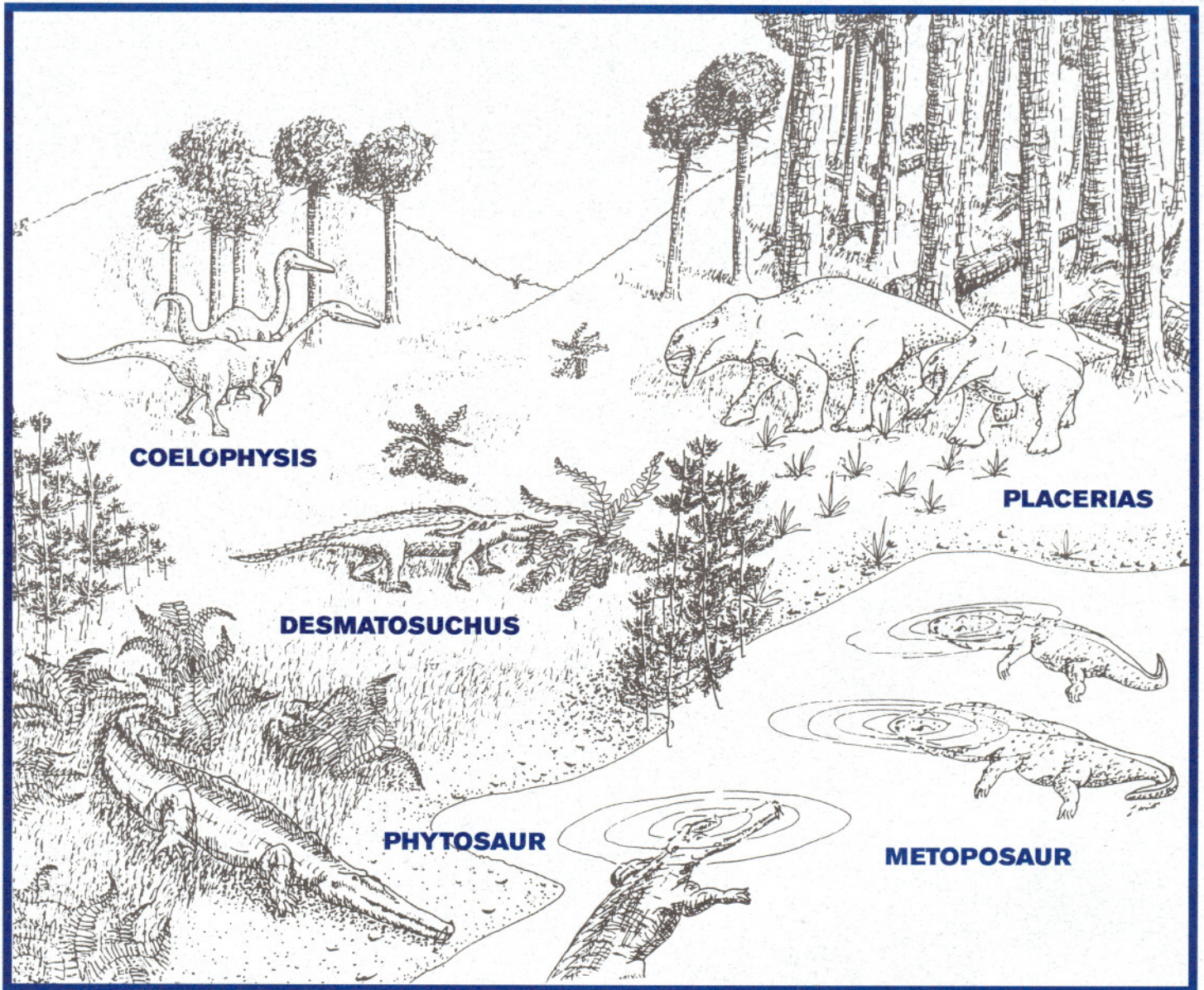
Down (D)

1. This is the largest animal living in the park today. It is sometimes mistaken for a deer.
2. This Triassic carnivore looked much like an alligator. *Hint: Look on page 10.*
3. We hope you will _____ your trip to Petrified Forest National Park. We're glad you came.
4. We hope you spend lots of _____ in the park and see many new things.
5. The trees that once lived in this area have turned to _____ through a process called petrification.
6. Many types of _____ live in the park. Please don't feed them!
7. Watch for these speedy creatures as you walk along the trails.

Word List

Ranger
Petrified
Prairie Dog
Lizards
Longest
Rabbits
Pronghorn
Animals
Phytosaur
Remember
Stone
Ferns
Time



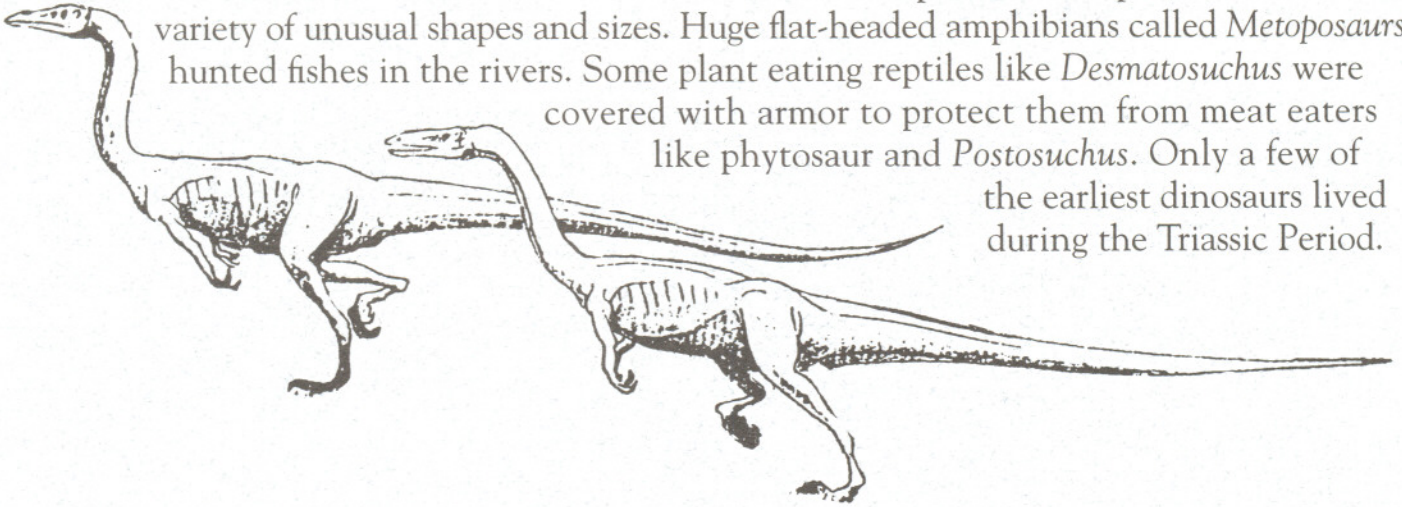


WHAT IF... the ancient animals that inhabited Petrified Forest National Park millions of years ago suddenly made a comeback? Write a story about one of these animals in the space below.

TRIASSIC TIMES

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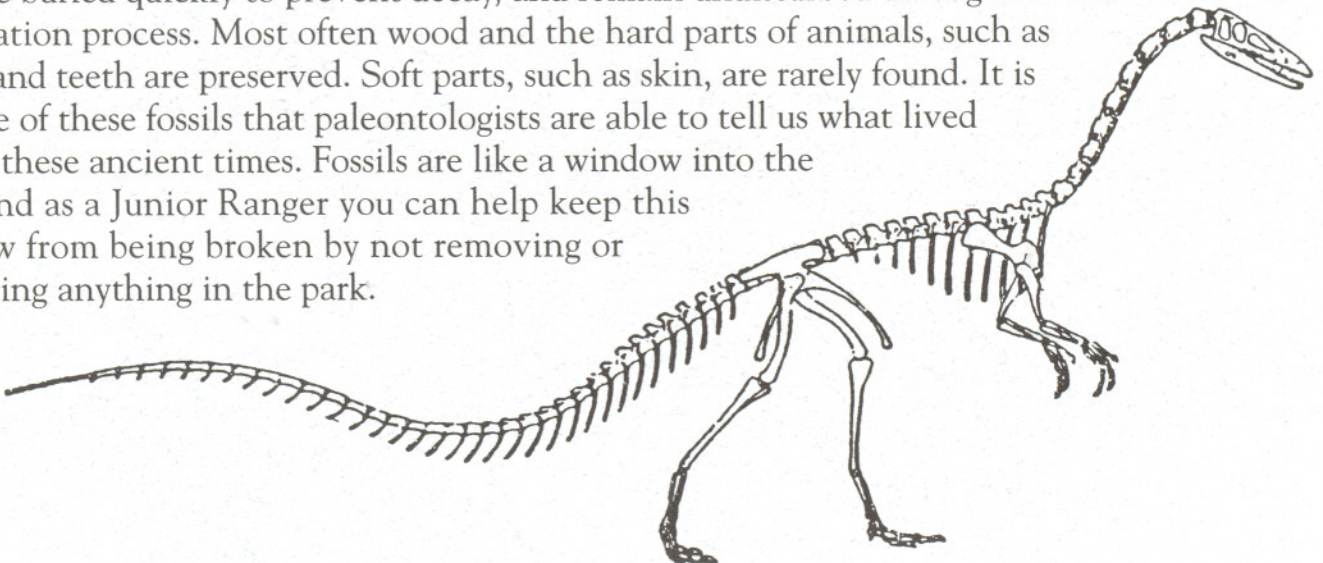
During a time called the Triassic (245-215 million years ago), northern Arizona was the home of many unusual plants and animals. Arizona was a warm, tropical area with ferns, horsetail, and cycads covering the ground. Many strange creatures lived on the swampy land and in the water of the slow rivers. These ancient reptiles and amphibians came in a variety of unusual shapes and sizes. Huge flat-headed amphibians called *Metoposaurs* hunted fishes in the rivers. Some plant eating reptiles like *Desmotosuchus* were covered with armor to protect them from meat eaters like phytosaur and *Postosuchus*. Only a few of the earliest dinosaurs lived during the Triassic Period.



WHAT IS A FOSSIL?

.....

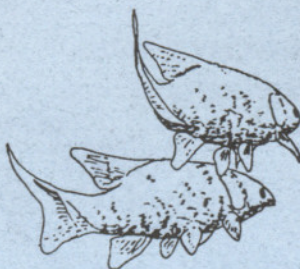
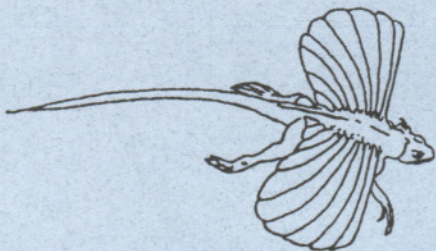
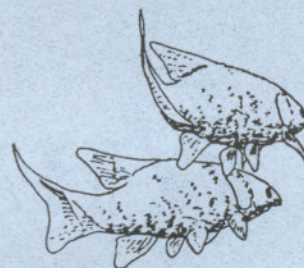
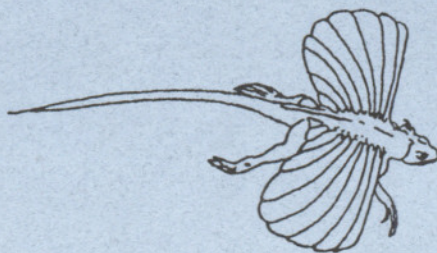
Paleontologists (PAY-lee-on-tall-OH-gists) come to Petrified Forest to study fossils in the clay hills. Fossils are the remains of prehistoric life. To become a fossil, a plant or animal must be buried quickly to prevent decay, and remain undisturbed throughout the fossilization process. Most often wood and the hard parts of animals, such as bones and teeth are preserved. Soft parts, such as skin, are rarely found. It is because of these fossils that paleontologists are able to tell us what lived during these ancient times. Fossils are like a window into the past, and as a Junior Ranger you can help keep this window from being broken by not removing or disturbing anything in the park.



FAMILY TIES

(Ages 6 and Under)

Each creature below has been separated from its cousin. Can you help bring the families together by connecting each animal with its match?



What's for Lunch?

Ages 7-9

During Triassic times, just as today, some animals ate meat (insects, fish, and other animals), and some ate plants. Meat eaters must have sharp, pointed teeth to capture and eat their food. Plant eaters have flatter, smoother teeth to grind up plant fibers. Draw a line from each animal to the type of food it ate. Look for clues at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, Rainbow Forest Museum, and on page 10.



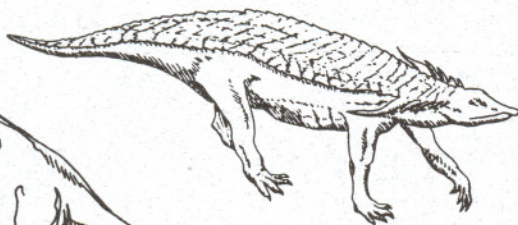
PHYTOSAUR



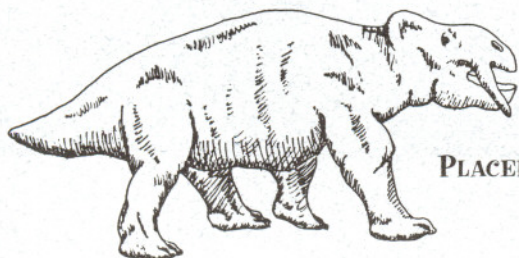
METOPOSAUR



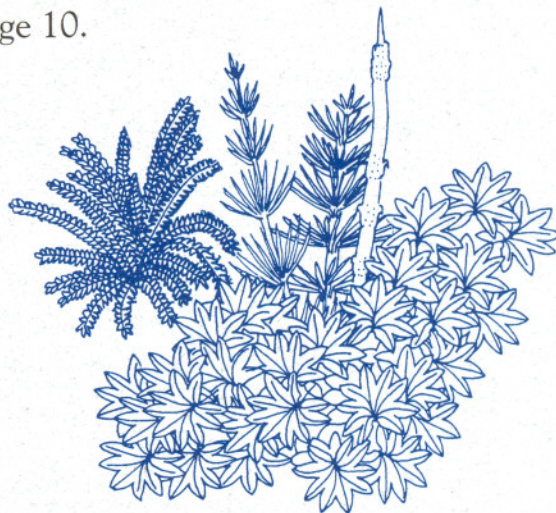
COELOPHYSIS



DESMATOSUCHUS



PLACERIAS



food for plant eaters



food for meat eaters

TRIASSIC WORD SEARCH

(Ages 10 and Up)

Fill in the blanks by using terms from the word list. If you need help, ask a park ranger, or look for more information in the park visitor centers.

1. _____ was a plant-eating reptile who sported a pair of tusks and looked somewhat like a rhinoceros.
2. _____ was a plant eater. It had plates of armor along its back and bony spikes that protected its neck from meat eaters.
3. The _____ looked like a giant crocodile.
4. The fossilized plants and animals of Petrified Forest National Park were alive during the _____ Period over 200 million years ago.
5. The petrified logs you now see in the park were at one time _____.
6. Triassic plants and animals needed _____ to survive, just as plants and animals do today.
7. Paleontologists study the fossilized _____, and _____ of Triassic animals to learn what these animals ate, what they looked like, and how they lived.
8. Metoposaurs lived in the water and ate mostly _____.
9. Several of the Triassic meat-eaters hunted for horseshoe _____, and flying _____ along the water's edge.
10. The Triassic Period was over 200 _____ years ago.

Word List

Trees	Teeth
Ferns	Triassic
Desmatosuchus	Bones
Million	Phytosaur
Water	Insects
Placerias	Crabs
Fossils	Fish

Just for fun, find these words in the puzzle below.

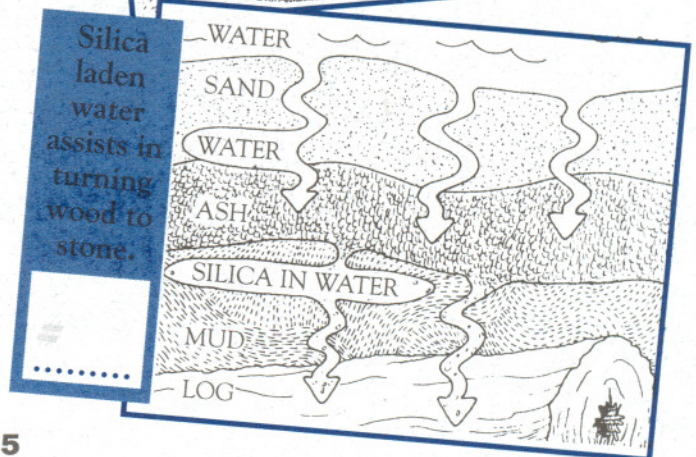
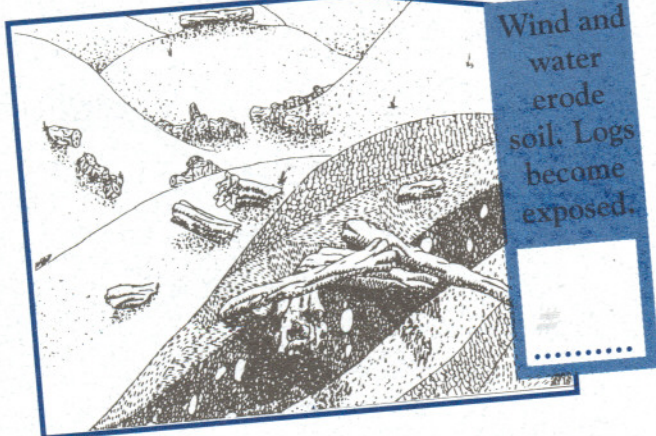
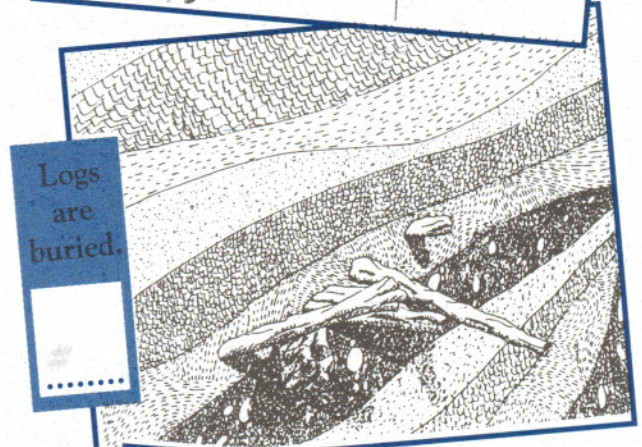
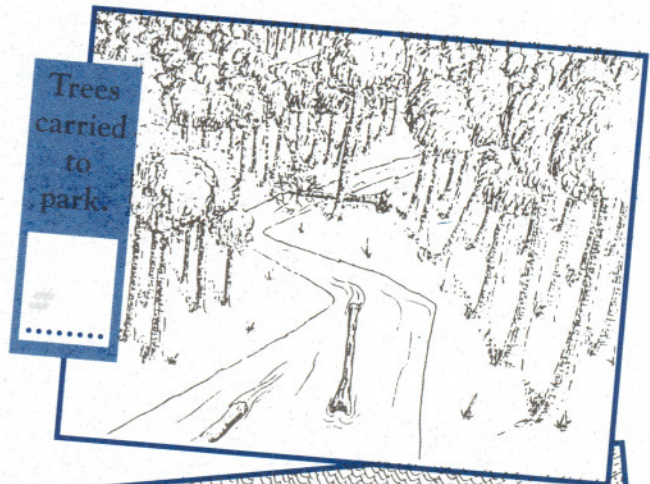
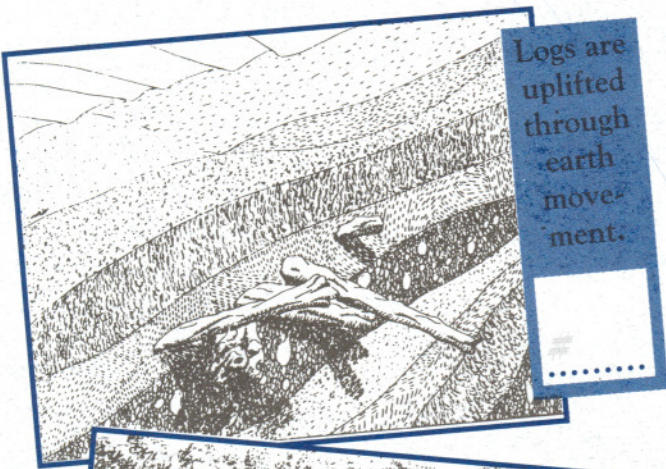
T	D	T	H	M	I	L	L	I	O	N	F	G	W	O	B
H	J	R	W	Q	N	P	L	A	C	E	R	I	A	S	L
E	F	I	S	H	S	H	K	V	F	A	F	Y	T	W	P
C	Z	A	U	Q	E	Y	I	M	T	O	T	E	E	T	H
O	B	S	D	Z	C	T	I	V	W	M	S	P	R	Q	A
D	E	S	M	A	T	O	S	U	C	H	U	S	T	N	X
O	N	I	R	B	S	S	D	Q	S	R	Y	C	I	H	S
N	F	C	M	O	Z	A	W	E	O	Q	A	V	N	L	K
T	L	J	P	N	I	U	E	Z	C	R	W	B	M	P	S
S	T	E	K	E	L	R	Y	I	X	P	V	E	S	N	W
Q	H	B	C	S	T	X	A	G	B	O	R	X	N	V	Y

THE PETRIFIED WOOD STORY:

What Happened First?

(Ages 10 and Up)

The story blocks below tell the petrified wood story — but they aren't in the correct order! Can you number the blocks in the correct order from number 1 to number 6? Hint: See the movie, "Timeless Impressions", at the Painted Desert Visitor Center, and visit the Rainbow Forest Museum for clues.



THE ANCESTRAL PUEBLO PEOPLE

.....

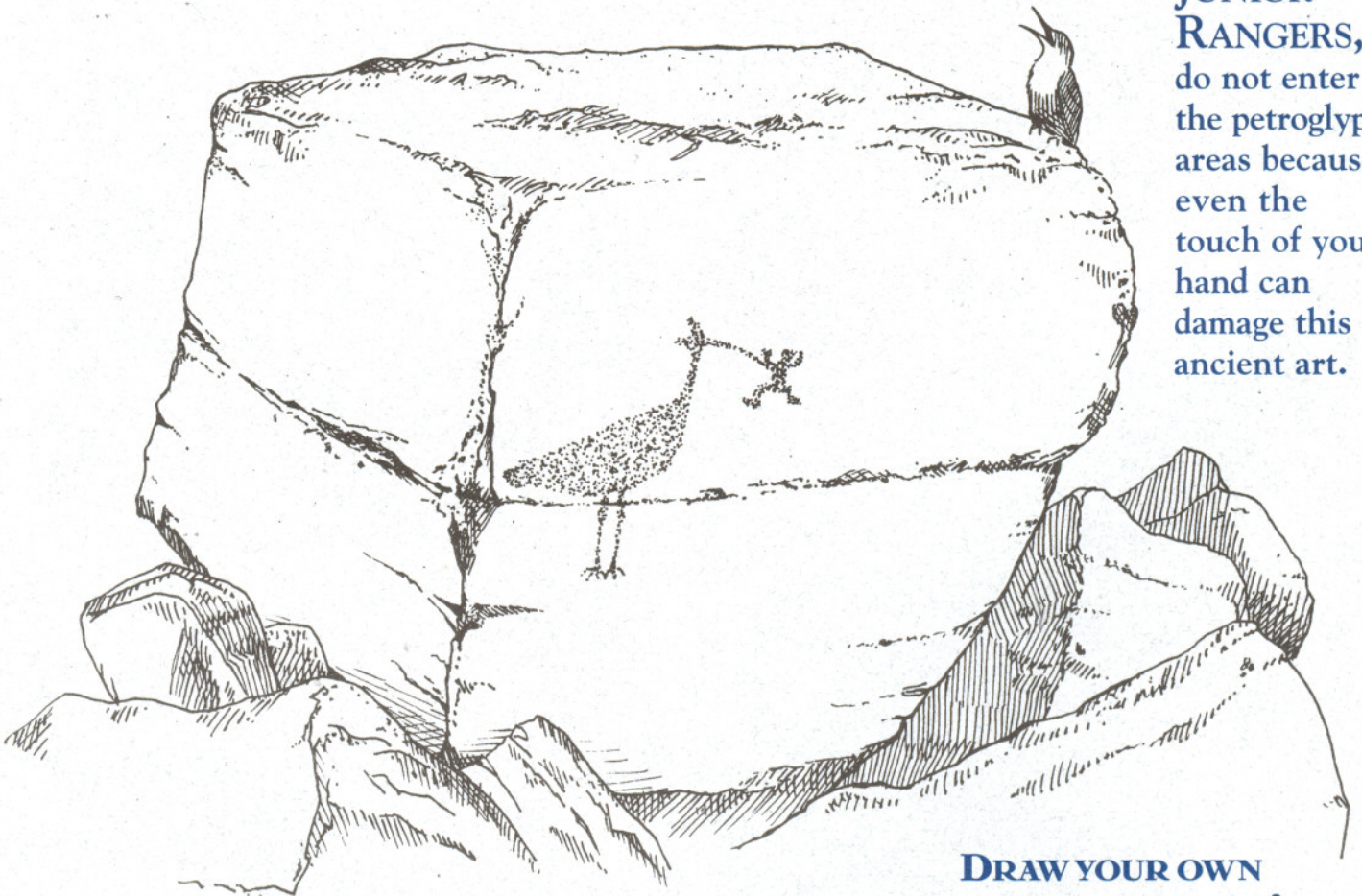
Many years ago, long before Columbus found America, people lived in this area. They are known to us as the Ancestral Pueblo People. They lived in homes made of stone, called "pueblos," pronounced, "pweb-lows," a Spanish word that means "towns."

They grew crops, such as corn, beans, and squash. They hunted animals to eat and traded with other peoples throughout the area. They made beautiful pottery from clay, as well as tools, such as knives, scrapers, and arrowheads from stone they found in the area.

Some of these people lived near the Puerco River that runs through the park. You can see the remains of their home, called Puerco Pueblo, near the middle of the park. The people left the Puerco River approximately 550 years ago.

At Puerco Pueblo and Newspaper Rock, you can see petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are designs or figures that the people chipped into the dark surfaces of rocks. Animals, people and other figures can be found. We don't know what these pictures meant to the people, but scientists, called archeologists (ark-e-ollow-jists), are trying to find out.


JUNIOR RANGERS, do not enter the petroglyph areas because even the touch of your hand can damage this ancient art.



DRAW YOUR OWN PETROGLYPH HERE!

A DAY IN THE LIFE

(Ages 10 and Up)

 day in the life of a child living at Puerco Pueblo was very different from a day in your life. These children did not go to school the way children do today.

The people of a community like Puerco Pueblo survived by cooperation with each other in all things, and children were needed to help at an early age. They helped adults grow crops like corn, squash, and beans, gather wild plants, hunt animals like rabbits and birds, prepare meals, and care for younger children. They also learned to make tools and pottery and to build with mud and stone. You might say that these children went to school all day, every day, learning from their parents and other adults by observation and participation.

Here is a story about one child's day — but some of the story is missing! Can you fill in the blanks using the word list below?

Every morning I get up and look out across the _____ we live in. My day begins when I go walking with my mother to gather wild _____, _____ and _____. The sun is still low in the sky as the people of my village begin to move about. My younger brothers and sisters are asleep on their blankets in the plaza. Soon the women will begin preparing the morning meal. We will have corn mush with the tangy flavor of wild plants mixed in. My mother and the other women fix the meals for everyone in the pueblo.

Our workers spend most of the day taking care of the crops. We grow _____, _____ and _____ in our fields. Corn is the most important. After we harvest the ears of corn,

the women will grind the kernels and seeds of other plants on our stone _____. Most of our _____ are made of stone. We make _____ and _____ out of petrified wood. We use clay to make _____, which we use for cooking and storing food.

We will work hard during the spring and summer. It is important that we grow enough food to store for the winter. Children will help the women gather plants and roots which will also be stored. Some of the men go hunting for wild game. They hunt _____, _____, and _____.

The village will have special _____ to ask for rain and healthy crops. In the fall we harvest our crops and put them away for the time when we will need them. In the winter months we will have time for playing _____. We will have special ceremonies down in the _____. We will tell stories, and work on our weaving when the weather turns cold. We stay busy all year long!

Rabbits
Kiva
Metate
Beans
Knives
Birds

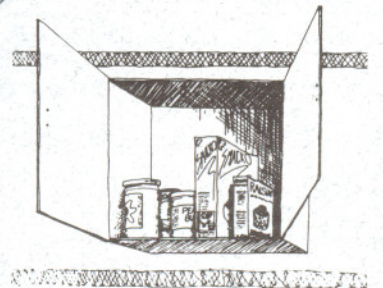
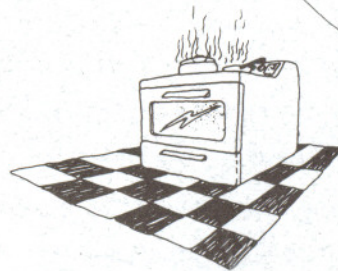
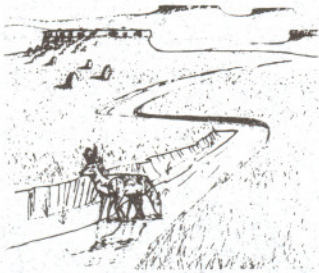
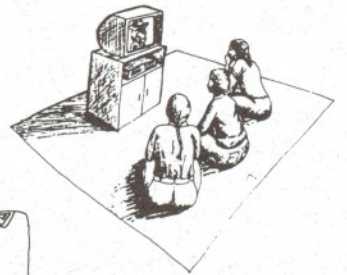
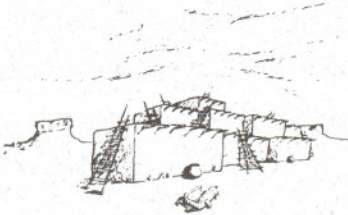
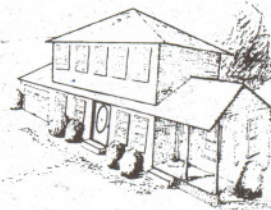
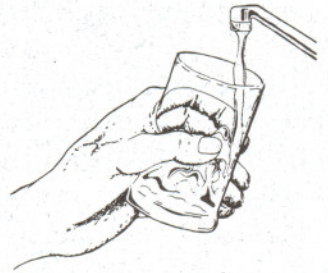
Pueblo
Tools
Seeds
Roots
Scrapers
Squash

Corn
Pottery
Ceremonies
Pronghorn
Games
Plants

YESTERDAY and TODAY

(Ages 6 and Under)

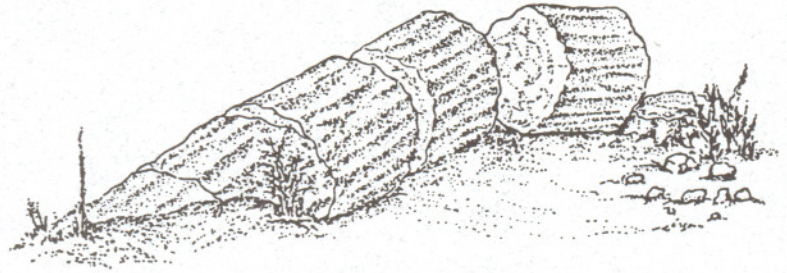
The Native American people didn't have electricity, running water, or grocery stores, but they still had to eat, drink, sleep and have a place to live. Can you draw a line to connect each item from our lives today with the item the Native people might have used?



A DISAPPEARING FOREST

.....

GOING...



GOING...



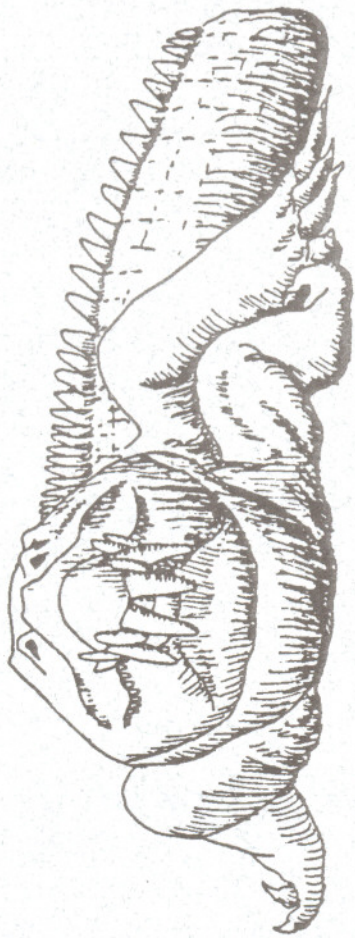
GONE?



Petrified Forest is slowly disappearing. Not from natural causes, but from some visitors. Too many believe they can take away a small piece of petrified wood without doing harm. But each piece of petrified wood adds up. Every year 900,000 people visit Petrified Forest National Park. If each of these visitors took only one ounce of petrified wood, that would add up to 56,250 pounds, or more than 28 tons stolen each year! If that happens, soon there will be no petrified wood for visitors like you to see.

National Parks are special places, where all of nature's things — animals, birds, plants and even rocks are protected so everyone can see and enjoy them. The rangers at Petrified Forest National Park need your help to keep the petrified wood from being stolen. Will you help? We need your ideas for protecting the petrified wood. Discuss the problem with your parents and write your best suggestion in the space below.

Your Jr. Ranger certificate is on the back cover. Have your parents fill it out and the ranger will sign it.



This Certifies That

_____ has completed the Junior Ranger Program at

Petrified Forest National Park

and is hereby considered an official

Junior Ranger

Given on the _____ day of _____, 20____

Ranger